

(c) whether a committee from National Science Centre from Calcutta has visited the place; and

(d) the time by which the Museum Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINSTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes. A team of National Council of Science Museums visited Vijayawada. The National Council of Science Museums may consider setting up a Science Museum there if the State Government of Andhra Pradesh would provide a developed site and share the cost of construction as per the policy of the National Council of Science Museums.

Working Women Hostels in Delhi

1619. **DR. A. K. PATEL:**

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Working Women's Hostels functioning in the Union Territory of Delhi and their locations;

(b) the capacity of each hostel;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the requirements of hostels for working women in Delhi; if so, details thereof;

(d) the annual expenditure being incurred by the Government on these hostels;

(e) whether more hostels are proposed to be opened in the Union Territory of Delhi in the near future; if so, the allocation of funds made therefor; and

(f) whether similar schemes are functioning in other metropolitan cities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Implementation of Forest Conservation Schemes in Bihar

1620. **SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of **ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS** be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which deforestation is responsible for the occurrence of floods in the country; and

(b) the details of the forest conservation schemes being implemented in the flood affected districts of Bihar to check the fury of floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Trees slow down the intensity of rainfall, improve water percolation in the ground and minimise surface run-off; and, therefore, deforestation generally is responsible for occurrence of floods. There is no precise data available to indicate the extent to which deforestation as a single factor is responsible for occurrence of floods in the country.

(b) The Department of Soil Conservation under the Ministry of Agriculture have been implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of flood-prone rivers—Sone, Ajoy and Punpun. The catchment of these rivers fall in the dis-